

Christine Joyce

3/9/09 (5)

From: jim.snyder.grant@gmail.com on behalf of Jim Snyder-Grant [jimsg@newview.org]
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:33 PM
To: Christine Joyce
Subject: Re: Green Acton followup on citizens concern - letter, banner

Thank-you Christine!

We will target our presentation for 5 minutes, to give the selectmen a few minutes to comment and vote.

And we will get you the draft letter by the Friday before, if not earlier.

-Jim, for the 350.org working group of Green Acton

Jim Snyder-Grant
18 Half Moon Hill
Acton MA 01720
978 266-9409

On Thu, Feb 12, 2009 at 1:27 PM, Christine Joyce <cjoyce@acton-ma.gov> wrote:

> Jim, I have placed you on the 3/9 BOS Agenda at 7:55 for 10 minutes.
> This is a very busy meeting and it is important that it runs on time,
> so keep that in mind while preparing your presentation. Please have
> the draft letter to go in to the BOS packet the Friday before the
> Meeting. Thanks, Christine
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: jim.snyder.grant@gmail.com [mailto:jim.snyder.grant@gmail.com]
> On Behalf Of Jim Snyder-Grant
> Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 1:21 PM
> To: Steve Ledoux
> Cc: Lauren Rosenzweig; Manager Department
> Subject: Re: Green Acton followup on citizens concern - letter, banner
>

> Thanks, will do. -Jim
>

> On Thu, Feb 12, 2009 at 1:11 PM, Steve Ledoux <sledoux@acton-ma.gov>
> wrote:

>> Jim:

>> We can put you on for 3/9. If you could get me a draft as soon as it
>> is available, I will make sure it is reviewed by a couple of the BoS.

>> Banners are done on a first come, first serve basis. The Building
>> Commissioner's Office handles the request. It is best to get your
>> request in ASAP

>> The Selectmen have delegated the approval of these requests to me and
>> it does not have to go before them.

>> Steven L. Ledoux
>> Town Manager
>> 472 Main St
>> Acton, MA 01720
>> Telephone: (978) 264-9612

>> Fax: (978) 264-9630
>>
>>
>> When writing or corresponding, please be aware that the Secretary of
>> State has determined that most email is a public record and,
>> therefore, may not be kept confidential.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: jim.snyder.grant@gmail.com [mailto:jim.snyder.grant@gmail.com]
>> On Behalf Of Jim Snyder-Grant
>> Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2009 10:13 AM
>> To: Steve Ledoux
>> Subject: Green Acton followup on citizens concern - letter, banner
>>
>> Hi Steve:
>>
>> The 350 working group of Green Acton met to figure out next steps &
>> wanted your advice on a couple of things:
>>
>> 1. How do you suggest we proceed with getting a letter reviewed and
>> signed by the selectmen about global climate change to be sent to the
>> President, Secretary of State, and the US global climate change lead
>> negotiator? We have a draft just about ready. We'd like to target an
>> upcoming meeting - March 9? - to do a short (5-10 minute) slideshow
>> followed by a discussion & decision by the selectmen about whether to
>> sign the letter. And it does seem to us that we'd want a couple of
>> selectmen at least to have had a chance to carefully review the
>> letter beforehand & suggest any changes in language that would make
>> it work better for the board.
>>
>> 2. We'd like to put up one over-road banner for October 24th, the
>> international day of action against global climate change. Which
>> department manages the availability of times & places? My memory is
>> that if a spot is available, then we can formally ask the selectmen
>> for permission. And then we get to do some fund-raising to get teh
>> banner made..
>>
>> We have taken to heart the advice & feedback from the board and have
>> dropped the idea of a town meeting resolution.
>>
>> Looking forward to your advice..
>>
>> -Jim
>>
>> Jim Snyder-Grant
>> 18 Half Moon Hill
>> Acton MA 01720
>> 978 266-9409
>>
>

Christine Joyce

From: Debra Simes [dsimes@wordslinger.net]
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2009 8:14 AM
To: Board of Selectmen
Cc: 350@greenacton.org
Subject: Green Acton Climate Change Letter materials for 3/9

6 March 2009

Good morning everyone,

Attached are copies of the letter Green Acton will ask you, at Monday's meeting, to consider signing and sending to four federal leaders (President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Special Envoy on Climate Change Todd Stern, and Secretary of Energy Steven Chu). We hope you'll find our presentation persuasive.

Should you choose to approve and send the letters (as is or amended), I can make the digital files available if that's helpful, or presumably Town Staff could do so (the only proviso is a technical one that I'll take up with Steve Ledoux or whoever is appropriate). We've asked that our Massachusetts Congressional Delegation be copied, as well, and again, I'm happy to prepare digital versions of those letters, as you see fit.

Also attached is a Statement of Support from a number of environmental experts who happen to live in Acton! They've all read and endorsed the letter; copies of their confirmation emails are available if you'd like them; just let me know.

Thanks so much and please contact me (or Jim Snyder-Grant) with any questions or concerns.

Best,

Debra (Simes)

~~~~~  
email: [dsimes@wordslinger.net](mailto:dsimes@wordslinger.net)  
home: 978.635.0455  
office: 978.635.3939  
fax: 978.635.5499

3/6/2009

**Statement of Support**  
**Acton Board of Selectmen**

**Re: Climate Change Letter to Federal Leaders**

**9 March 2009**

We, the undersigned Acton residents (and one former resident) with particular knowledge and expertise on environmental issues, endorse the content of the letter on climate change and climate negotiations drafted by Green Acton. We encourage the Board of Selectmen to sign and send these letters to President Obama, Secretary Clinton, Special Envoy Stern, and Secretary Chu on behalf of our Town and its interests.

Thank you.

**Joanne Bissetta**

Environmental Policy Professional

**Michael Bradley**

Environmental Strategy Specialist

**Eric Hudson**

Founder & CEO, Recycline, Inc.

**Lee Ketelsen**

New England Codirector, Clean Water Action

**Warren Leon**

Co-author of the Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices

**Matt Liebman**

Environmental Scientist

PhD Adjunct Faculty member, Suffolk University

**Terry Lindgren**

Member, Acton Green Advisory Board

**Stephen Long**

Environmental Professional

**Tom Michelman**

Principal, Boreal Renewable Energy Development

**Chris Schaffner PE**

Principal, The Green Engineer, LLP

Acton Board of Selectmen  
c/o Acton Town Hall  
472 Main Street,  
Acton, MA 01720

9 March 2009

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

From our New England town of Acton, Massachusetts, we write to you in the spirit of our forebears, who demonstrated the power of “revolutionary thinking” and engaged, democratic participation in their own governance. We write, with a profound sense of concern and urgency, to request that you do everything in your power to ensure the strongest possible global climate change treaty at the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. Such a treaty should identify 350 parts per million by volume (ppmv) of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> as a necessary — and the only sustainable — goal.

Why are we, as the elected governance body for our town, moved to contact you? The reasons are several, but all turn on our community’s recognition of the enormous importance of the natural world and its functioning systems. We are keenly aware of the impending impacts of global climate change, including the flooding of coastal regions such as the Massachusetts coast and Cape Cod. As in many exurban communities, transportation is a big part of residents’ lives and a real frontier for more environmentally responsible effort, such as more mass transit infrastructure, shaping development “smartly,” and making the town more walkable. Acton is active on all these fronts. We also count Bill McKibben, who has written and spoken so compellingly on the climate crisis, and who hails from nearby Lexington, as a local hero. All told, we are a community deeply concerned about global climate change, and endorse a 350 ppmv ceiling as the centerpiece of international climate agreements.

We recognize that 350 ppmv and all that necessitates is a supremely challenging goal. We understand that most previous plans floated by governmental bodies have been less aggressive, typically targeting final levels at 450 ppmv or more. The latest science, summarized in a paper by NASA climate scientist James Hansen, et al. — “Target Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>: Where Should Humanity Aim?” — makes clear that these earlier, higher targets account only for the faster-acting positive feedback loops that are causing temperatures to rise in response to increased CO<sub>2</sub> levels. The longer-term geological record shows that slower-acting positive feedback loops, which arise from phenomena such as ice sheet

disintegration, vegetation migration, and greenhouse-gas release from soils, tundra, and ocean sediments, put a safe upper limit on CO<sub>2</sub> levels at 350 ppmv.

Current atmospheric levels are near 387 ppmv, and rising by 2 ppmv each year. Without action to bring our levels back to 350 ppmv in this century, we risk flipping the planetary climate system into the much-warmer, ice-free conditions of the long-ago, prehuman past — conditions with which most of the species alive today have no experience, which would flood much of the coastal land that houses so much of the Earth's population, and which would cause cataclysmic changes in many of the planet's natural systems.

The measures necessary to accomplish this 350 ppmv goal, such as phasing out coal plants in the next two decades and establishing global cap-and-trade systems, are daunting. The U.S. and other developed countries must be willing to move beyond historical understandings, comfort zones, and political strictures to embrace levels of international cooperation, including technology and capital transfer, without precedent in human history. Yet these measures and this cooperation are precisely what we must achieve because they are our best chance for coming generations of children to grow up, look back, and say “thank you” for making hard choices, rather than look back in astonishment and outrage. Indeed, these choices are the ones that will allow coming generations to live in a world relatively like the one we inhabit and love.

In November of 2007, on the release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report, Rajendra Pachauri, the scientist and economist who chairs the IPCC, spoke these sobering words: “If there's no action before 2012, that's too late . . . . What we do in the next two to three years will determine our future. This is the defining moment.” The 2009 Copenhagen conference, and the negotiations leading up to it, may represent the last political window the world has to set our civilization on course for a future in a recognizable world.

During Hillary Clinton's Senate confirmation hearing, our own Senator John Kerry said, “Scientists have now revised the levels of supportable greenhouse gas emissions from 550 parts per million to 450 to now 350. . . . So our challenge is going to be even greater than it was five months ago, Senator, or two months ago. The perception that we can kind of creep at this . . . is foolhardy.”

Scientists have for some time recognized the urgent need for muscular action to arrest climate change. Clearly, much of the American public and many politicians now do, as well. Please understand this growing call as the beginning of what will soon become a groundswell. This year, the most important number for every American and every citizen on Earth is 350. We urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to make that number the linchpin of both domestic policies and of international climate negotiations. Now is *the* time to take bold and groundbreaking steps on climate change — steps that can offer us a decent

future, as James Hansen has said, on “a planet similar to that on which civilization developed and to which life on Earth is adapted.”

Thank you for your hard work on this issue and your service to all of us.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Board of Selectmen of Acton, Massachusetts

Lauren Rosenzweig, Chair

Paulina Knibbe, Vice Chair

Andrew Magee, Clerk

Peter Berry

Terra Friedrichs

cc: Secretary of State Hillary Clinton  
Todd Stern, Special Envoy for Climate Change  
Secretary of Energy Steven Chu

Senator Edward Kennedy  
Senator John Kerry  
Representative Niki Tsongas